

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01

TRSE-00 GAC-01 SAJ-01 /150 W
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R 291015 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4132

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0615

E. O. GDS

TAGS: EIND, MT

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE

1. IN SESSION WITH MINTOFF EVENING MARCH 28 IN WHICH I PRESENTED NATO MEMORANDUM ON SPECIAL PAYMENTS, MINTOFF ALSO RAISED WESTINGHOUSE QUESTION. HE RECALLED THAT LIBYA HAD SENT TECHNICAL MISSION TO LOOK AT MATERIAL AND SPECIFICATIONS ON MALTA AND THAT REACTION HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE LIBYAN REPLY IS NOT YET DEFINITE.

2. MINTOFF SAID EXPERTS HAD RAISED TWO QUESTIONS WHICH HE CONFESSED WERE NOT CLEAR TO HIM. FIRST WAS THAT " SOME ELEMENTS WERE MISSING". MINTOFF SAID LIBYANS CLEARLY DID NOT MEAN THAT PHYSICAL COMPONENTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO BE INSPECTED. RATHER HE UNDERSTOOD THEM TO MEAN THAT SOME DESIGN ELEMENT WHICH LIBYANS WANTED WAS NOT INCORPORATED IN THIS PLANT. MINTOFF ASKED WHETHER POSSIBLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME ADVANCE OR BREAKTHROUGH IN TECHNOLOGY OF WHICH LIBYANS AWARE BUT WHICH DID NOT EXIST AT TIME MALTA PLANT WAS DESIGNED.

3. SECOND LIBYAN QUESTION WAS THAT " SHAPE" OF DESALINATOR DID NOT MEET THEIR REQUIREMENTS. MINTOFF SAID HE WAS
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EVEN MORE PERPLEXED BY THIS QUESTION , AND COULD ONLY INTERPRET IT TO MEAN THAT DESIGN FOR MALTA PLANT WAS SPECIALIZED TO FIT DIFFICULTIES OF PHYSICAL SITE ON WHICH PLANT TO BE LOCATED.

4. I SUGGESTED THAT SINCE NEITHER OF US IS IN POSITION TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO HAVE LIBYANS AND WESTINGHOUSE TALK DIRECTLY WITH EACH OTHER. WHILE NOT REJECTING THIS AT LATER DATE, MINTOFF IMPLIED THAT FOR THE MOMENT THERE IS STILL A STRONG POLITICAL ANGLE TO THIS SCHEME AND HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MALTA AND LIBYANS. HOWEVER, HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT COULD CONTACT WESTINGHOUSE AND SEE WHETHER THEY CAN PROVIDE REPLIES TO THE TWO QUESTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE PROSPECTS DO NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY BRIGHT, MINTOFF STILL SEEMS TO FEEL THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO GET LIBYANS TO HELP OUT. HE MENTIONED THAT IF IT WERE ONLY UP TO JALLUD, IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, BUT LIBYAN TECHNICIANS WERE CAUSING HIS DIFFICULTIES. GETZ

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